



# THE BULLETIN

NEWSLETTER OF THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF UPPER MONTCLAIR  
MEMBER OF THE NJSFWC OF THE GFWC-LIBERTY DISTRICT



## SPRING 2024 ISSUE

EDITOR: HEATHER ZISES

### CALENDAR

#### APRIL

- 3 NJSFWC Liberty District Achievement Day
- 4 NJSFWC Liberty District Spring Conference
- 8 Board Meeting, 10:00am
- 10 ANNUAL MEETING, NEW MEMBERS TEA, 1:30pm
- 17 ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM, 1:30pm
- 18 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP, 1:30pm
- 22 *Earth Day*
- 23 *Passover begins at sundown*
- 24 Set Up for Flea Market
- 26 FLEA MARKET, 10:00am-4:00pm
- 27 FLEA MARKET, 10:00am-3:00pm

#### MAY

- 1 HEALTH & WELLNESS PROGRAM, 1:30pm
- 7-9 NJSFWC Convention, Atlantic City, NJ
- 12 *Mother's Day*
- 13 Board Meeting, 10:00am
- 13 NJSFWC Liberty District GCI Reception, 6:00pm
- 15 CLOSING LUNCHEON, 12:00pm
- 16 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP, 1:30pm
- 27 *Memorial Day*

#### JUNE

- 3 Board Meeting, 10:00am
- 3-6 GCI, Douglass College, New Brunswick, NJ
- 14 *Flag Day*
- 16 *Father's Day*
- 19 *Juneteenth*
- 20 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP, 1:30pm
- 21 *First Day of Summer*
- 25 NJSFWC Liberty District Council Meeting
- 27-2 GFWC Convention, Chicago, IL

### OUR CO-PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Dear Members,

While this winter has been relatively mild, we eagerly anticipate the arrival of spring, soon to grace us with blossoming flowers and the return of vibrant greenery.

As our club year draws to a close, we reflect on a resoundingly successful period marked by outstanding programs and a notable surge in membership. Key highlights included an enlightening exhibition tour and workshop at the esteemed Montclair Art Museum, our annual benefit luncheon in support of the Human Needs Food Pantry and MESH (Montclair Emergency Services for Hope), the triumphant Holly Berry Craft and Gift Show, hosting the Liberty District Day of Service, heartfelt Valentines for Veterans initiative, and an inaugural Blood Drive endorsed by the American Red Cross. These accomplishments set a strong foundation for the upcoming year, with exciting plans already underway.

We hope you all will attend the Annual Meeting on April 10 when the new Board of Trustees is presented and the club will honor one lifetime member, two 25-year members and introduce 21 new members! We really look forward to seeing you at all other club's programs throughout the spring season.

Thank you for all you do to make WCUM the wonderful club that it is! May your summers be warm and relaxing.

Fondly,  
Trautie & Cyndee

#### Follow Us:



#### Facebook:

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## SPOTLIGHT SERIES

### JANET OSCAR, PATRICIA PIERMATTI & ROSANNE DENISCIA

*For this issue of The Bulletin, we are continuing our new format for our Spotlight Series. In this issue, we are focusing on three officers from our Board of Trustees- Janet Oscar, First Vice President; Patricia Piermatti, Recording Secretary; and Rosanne DeNiscia, Corresponding Secretary.*



R-L: Janet Oscar, Pat Piermatti,  
Rosanne De Niscia.

**Janet** joined the Woman's Club of Upper Montclair in 1997. She is currently serving as First Vice President and Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. In her current positions, she is responsible for handling the Opening and Closing Luncheons, the Christmas Tea, the Hodge Podge Program, the Valentine's Day Luncheon and the Saint Patrick's Day Luncheon. Throughout the years, she has also served on the NJSFWC State Board as the 7th District Vice President. On a District Level, Janet has chaired the Special State Project "Advocate for Children," the Arts/ Creative Committee and the Conservation Committee (now known as the Environmental Committee). She served as Chairman of Hospitality for the Special State Project Fundraiser, "Chill Out," for Homeless Veterans which was held at the WCUM in 2022. One of her fondest memories was serving as one of the captains of the club's Thursday morning bowling league, and she still has her trophies from what she recalls as "those wonderful days." Speaking of trophies, she has received gold awards on the District and State Levels for sculpture, pastel paintings and oil painting, photography, baking, jewelry making and flower arranging. However, her greatest joy is working with club members on fundraising events. Our members are wonderful, and we are all "living the volunteer spirit."

**Pat** joined the Woman's Club of Upper Montclair in 2008, when she opted to take an early retirement after 35 years as the Pharmaceutical Sciences Librarian for Rutgers University Libraries. It did not take the Club leadership long to tap into her talents as she was soon asked to fill the vacant position of Club Historian. "During my first year of membership, longtime member Dot Eldefry asked me to consider filling the vacant Historian position. With her encouragement,

*If you would like to nominate a club member to be featured in a future Spotlight, please contact Barbara Davey, Membership Chair, at [BarbaraADavey@aol.com](mailto:BarbaraADavey@aol.com) or 973-432-5282.*

I did so and the rest as they say is history." She has also served on the Nominating and Telephone committees, prior to her current role as Recording Secretary. While Pat enjoys participating in many of the club's programs, she finds that her duties as Historian provide her with a unique opportunity. "In that position, I'm able to utilize a combination of personal, academic and professional skills. Researching and writing my regular Historical Nuggets column brings me joy and increases my knowledge of social and women's history. The ancillary task of keeping our club archives in order satisfies my natural inclination to keep things organized."

**Rosanne** joined the Club in 2012, after retiring from teaching at the HB Whitehorne Middle School in Verona. "My former colleague and long-time club member, Rosemary DiTrani, encouraged me to join, and I am so grateful that she did." Rosanne has been serving as Corresponding Secretary for the past two years, and during her dozen years as a member, she has served as chair of the Nominating Committee, the Arts Performing Committee, and the Membership Committee. Though she enjoyed those various roles and responsibilities, her favorite was heading up the Arts Performing Committee. "I distinctly remember arranging for two musicians – one who played the bass, the other the drums -- to come to the club for an event. Their repertoire included popular songs, oldies, and even some Celtic melodies. The event was held in March – close to Saint Patrick's Day – and the members enjoyed it. Another event featured a professor of musical theatre from Montclair State University, who played Broadway tunes on the piano. A female soloist from the University joined him, and our members loved it. Performers loved being at the Club, and enjoyed entertaining our members!"

## NJSFWC LIBERTY DISTRICT ACHIEVEMENT DAY

WEDNESDAY APRIL 3, 9:00-11:00AM



Achievement Day will be held at our club, on April 3. It is the day when club members enter a variety of items, either for Arts & Culture and/or for Environment, to compete with members of all Liberty District Clubs. The winners will go to the NJSFWC State Convention in May, to compete with all state clubs. Please start planning on all the items you may enter in this art and environment competition. There are lots of categories for you to choose from ... you may enter one item from each category. The registration forms (which were sent out in a February email) have to be sent to the respective District Chairman (names and addresses are on the bottom of the form) by March 21st. The items have to be delivered to the club on April 3, from 9 to 11 am. As Chairman of the Liberty District environment, I would like to urge our club's talented members to consider entering items, either under Artistic Designs and/or Houseplants, where you may choose from 19 different pieces of flower arrangements, etc. or under Houseplants - 15 varieties. For any additional information, please call Trautie at 973-783-8523.

## LIBERTY DISTRICT SPRING CONFERENCE

THURSDAY APRIL 4

The Liberty District Spring Conference will be held on Thursday, April 4th at our Club. Registration is at 9:15am and the meeting begins at 10:00am. NJSFWC President, Shirley Holly, will be the keynote speaker. Club Presidents will report and District awards will be presented for Report Writing and Achievement Day entries. The luncheon will consist of salad, Chicken Francaise, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, dessert, coffee, and tea. The cost is \$48. The deadline is March 20th. Reservations can be mailed to the club or dropped off at the office. Please join us for this fun and informative day!

**Thank you! Vivien Finn, Federation Secretary**



## ANNUAL TEA HONORING 25-YEAR & NEW MEMBERS

WEDNESDAY APRIL 10, 1:30PM



Please mark your calendars and plan to join us as we honor two members -- **Dianne Maki-Sethi** and **Debbie Michelsen** -- who are celebrating 25 years as members of WCUM. In addition, we are saluting our newest club members who joined us this past year. They include: **Bertha Andre; Kathleen Bennett, Marcia Fusilli; Liz George; Jo Guscott; William L. Hurlock; Barbara Hyland; Caroline McGovern Johnson; Karen Jung; Coco Kenny; Judy Linton; Victoria Monte; Angel Pollack, Maureen Scandiffio; Gloria Simonsen; Diana Soriano; Penny Weber; Colleen Whitcombe; Sonyia Woloshyn; Robin Woods; and Susan Yu.** If you plan to attend our annual tea, please call our Office -- 973-744-9138 -- or complete and mail the reservation form at the bottom of this newsletter. There is no charge for this program, but we need to know how many members will attend for planning purposes. We hope to see you as we toast and celebrate with our honorees.

**Thank you! Barbara A. Davey, Membership Chair**

## ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY APRIL 17, 1:30PM

A great program is in preparation for the Environment on April 17. Details will follow by e-mail. Please mark your agendas!

Thank you! Carylmead Eggleston, Environment Chair

## BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

THURSDAY APRIL 18, MAY 16 & JUNE 20, 1:30PM

The Book Discussion Group will hold our three final meetings on Thursday, April 18, Thursday May 16 and Thursday June 20 at 1:30p at the Club House. All members are welcome, regardless of whether or not they have read the books. Any questions, please contact Barbara Davey at BarbaraADavey@aol.com or 973-432-5282.

Thank you! Barbara A. Davey, Membership Chair

## GRAND FLEA MARKET

FRIDAY APRIL 26, 10:00AM-4:00PM | SATURDAY APRIL 27, 10:00AM-3:00PM



Have you started your spring cleaning? Do you want to get rid of all your items you don't use anymore, but are still in good condition? You may donate them to the club's Flea Market. If you are donating items, please start bringing them to the club on April 22, when we will begin setting up. This will be an ongoing work for the whole week. If you have time, please come and help, just let Cyndee or Trautie know when.

Thank you! Cyndee & Trautie

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY MAY 1, 1:30PM

Please plan to attend the Health & Wellness Day on May first. Another great program on health is in planning. Details will follow by e-mail.

Thank you! Celia McAllister, Chair

## CLOSING LUNCHEON & INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS

WEDNESDAY MAY 15, 12:00PM



Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the last social event of the club's year. A delicious meal, yummy dessert, are in the planning stages for this event. Details of price, reservation, etc. will be e-mailed beginning of May.

Thank you!

Janet Oscar, First VP and Event Chair



## NJSFWC CONVENTION IN ATLANTIC CITY

MONDAY MAY 6-WEDNESDAY MAY 8

Would you like to join several WCUM members at the NJSFWC Annual Convention, once again hosted at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Atlantic City? The convention dates are May 6th to May 8th. We've secured a special hotel rate of \$123.85 per night for attendees. To cut costs, you have the option to share a room with double beds. This year marks the celebration of the NJSFWC's 130th Anniversary. During the convention, you'll have the opportunity to participate in informative business sessions, engaging workshops, and hear from remarkable speakers such as Martha Hall Kelly. In addition to the enriching sessions, there will be ample opportunities for fun and camaraderie with fellow Federation members. To book your hotel accommodations, please call 1-609-449-6860 and mention Group Code GFWC24 or visit [book.passkey.com/go/GFWC24](http://book.passkey.com/go/GFWC24). Registration for the event is handled through the club. Simply submit a check payable to WCUM for the total amount of the events you plan to attend, which amounts to \$288 for all sessions. Please note that all other meals are at your own expense. We look forward to having you join us for this memorable event!

The expenses to attend are as follows:

- Registration \$45 (required for all attendees)
- Sunday Dinner: \$75 | Menu: Grilled Marinated Chicken Breast/Vegetarian
- Monday Dinner: \$75 | Menu: Slow Roasted Chicken Breast/Seared Atlantic Salmon/Vegetarian
- Tuesday Banquet: \$93 | Menu: Beef Short Ribs/Miso Marinated Sea Bass/Vegetarian

### BIRTHDAYS

#### APRIL

4/18-Cathy McCarthy  
4/19-Janet Hillman  
4/20-Dorothy Meissner  
4/23-Lucy Fitzgerald, Pat Nicosia  
4/24-Diane Esty, Theresa Ruffo  
4/25-Joan Fernandes, Beverly Rose  
4/28-Julia Bonsal

#### MAY

5/3-Marcia Fusilli, Gaye Maziarz  
5/4-Rosanne DeNiscia, Monica Sirotnak  
5/6-Dianne Maki-Sethi, Phyllis Torrioni  
5/11-Pam Rafferty  
5/14-Rosemary DiTrani  
5/18-Katherine Wahlert  
5/19-Dorothy Eldefry  
5/30-Karen Mack

#### JUNE

6/8-Marie Tuosto  
6/12-Heather Zises  
6/13-Trautie Becker  
6/14-Margaret Anderson  
6/17-Janet Oscar  
6/20-Margo Perl  
6/28-Patricia Aronoff

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

As the Membership Chair, I would like to welcome our newest members. They include: **Elizabeth "Liz" George; Josephine "Jo" Guscott; Judy Linton;** and **Susan Yu**. Liz, a West Orange resident, has joined as a professional member. She is interested in the Arts and Culture Committee and the Holly Berry Craft Show. She may be reached at [lizgeorgesw@gmail.com](mailto:lizgeorgesw@gmail.com). Jo, a resident of Pine Beach, NJ, has joined as a non-resident member as she lives more than 60 miles from the Club. She is interested in participating in the Arts and Culture Committee and the Holly Berry Craft Show. Members are invited to visit her website at [www.joguscottart.com](http://www.joguscottart.com). She may be reached at [guscottj@comcast.net](mailto:guscottj@comcast.net). Judy lives in Basking Ridge, and has joined as a professional member. She is interested in the Holly Berry Craft Show. Members are invited to visit her website at [www.LeFashionCottage.com](http://www.LeFashionCottage.com). She may be reached at [judyinton95@yahoo.com](mailto:judyinton95@yahoo.com). Susan is a resident of Montclair, and is interested in learning about all of our various committees. She may be reached at [sueyu66@gmail.com](mailto:sueyu66@gmail.com). And...**Barbara Hyland**, a resident of Glen Ridge, joined the club as a member late last year. Recently retired having raised two boys, she had attended the Holly Berry Craft Fair, had participated in the Book Discussion Group, and researched the organization online. She may be reached at [Barbara.hyland11@gmail.com](mailto:Barbara.hyland11@gmail.com). And finally, a heartfelt thanks and appreciation to **Florence Sinofsky**, who has joined our club as a Life Member! Thank you, Florence for your support and generosity.

**Thank you! Barbara A. Davey, Membership Chair**

## HISTORICAL NUGGET: “PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION COMPLAINTS...”

The forerunner of our current Civic Engagement & Outreach Department was the Civics Department founded in 1911 by Mrs. Cecilia Gaines Holland. Meetings were held every fifth Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. A review of online issues of The Montclair Times (available in the Newspapers.com database) prior to WW I reveals issues of common concern still relevant for our era. One such issue is public transportation. For late 1911, public transportation in the Montclair area included trolleys (electric streetcars). Beginning in 1898, the Valley Road Trolley Line ran from Upper Montclair to Orange. Service along this trolley line ceased in 1928. The Public Service Corporation, launched in 1903, began early on to purchase the different New Jersey trolley systems. A recent NorthJersey.com article by Colleen Wilson states that during “the heyday of trolley cars in New Jersey, Public Service eventually accumulated and built 882 miles of track crisscrossing the Garden State ... and even connected to cities out of state, including Baltimore and Boston.” On Tuesday evening, November 28, 1911 WCUM’s Civics Department made a report to

the New Jersey State Civics Federation meeting at Commonwealth Hall. Civics Department members Louise Howland, Miriam Betting Kennedy and Cecilia Gaines Holland provided a detailed report of the failings of the Valley Road Trolley line. These failings included: no fixed schedule, irregular running times between trolley cars, dirty, old, overcrowded and poorly ventilated cars. Additionally, many conductors were poorly trained, unfriendly and unable to answer passengers inquiries. Does this remind anyone of complaints against our current regional transport systems? The WCUM group made several recommendations for improvement, including a shorter schedule to take into account a doubling of the population in Upper Montclair between the years 1898 and 1911, the establishment of what is now Montclair State University, increased traffic and more churches (and other establishments). Mrs. Holland concluded the WCUM presentation with this quote “... in many respects Montclair is Utopian, but ... “no Valley Road line should exist in Utopia.” How’s that for taking a stand!

**Pat Piermatti, Historian, Recording Secretary**

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

IN ACCORDANCE WITH **ARTICLE 8, SECTION 4** OF THE **WCUM BYLAWS**, THE FOLLOWING  
MEMBERS HAVE BEEN NOMINATED TO SERVE ON THE **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**.

### OFFICERS TO SERVE TWO YEARS 2024-2026

PRESIDENT.....CYNDEE ROWAN  
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT.....WALTRAUT BECKER  
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.....ROSANNE DeNISCIA  
TREASURER .....SONYIA WOLOSHYN

### OFFICERS TO SERVE ONE YEAR 2024-2025

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT.....JANET OSCAR  
RECORDING SECRETARY.....PAT PIERMATTI  
FEDERATION SECRETARY.....VIVIEN FINN

### DEPARTMENT CHAIRS TO SERVE TWO YEARS 2024-2026

ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN/DOMESTIC VIOLENCE....JOANN APONTE  
ARTS AND CULTURE.....KAREN BELL  
ARTS PERFORMING.....MARY SELLITTO-CURCIO

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH.....CAROLINE JOHNSON  
EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES.....ARLENE ONNEMBO  
ENVIRONMENT.....CARYLMEAD EGGLESTON  
HEALTH AND WELLNESS.....CELIA McALLISTER

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS TO SERVE ONE YEAR 2024-2025

BYLAWS.....ANITA JAMES  
COMMUNICATIONS.....PATRICIA CONNELL  
MEMBERSHIP.....BARBARA DAVEY  
NOMINATING.....DOROTHY MEISSNER  
TELEPHONE.....JOANNE DAVEY AND MARIE TUOSTO  
WAYS AND MEANS.....JANET OSCAR

**-Vivien Finn, Nominating Chairman**

**-Arlene Onnembo and Pat Piermatti, Committee**

**NJSFWC SPRING CONFERENCE**

THURSDAY APRIL 4

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE RESERVE \_\_\_\_\_ TICKETS AT \$48 PER PERSON. RESERVATIONS CLOSE MARCH 20.

KINDLY MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO WCUM. MAIL OR BRING IT TO 200 COOPER AVENUE, MONTCLAIR, NJ 07043

**TEA HONORING 25-YEAR AND NEW MEMBERS**

WEDNESDAY APRIL 10, 1:30PM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE RESERVE \_\_\_\_\_ COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS.

**THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF UPPER MONTCLAIR**  
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